
Frequently Asked Questions

By Mattie Mendoza and Phil Lockwood

Q: My certification expired May 31, 2007. Can I choose any of the four recertification options to renew my certificate?

A: Yes. Applicants completing ALL renewal requirements **between the date of expiration up to one year after expiration date** can choose to renew by any of the four available options, but must **also submit a skills verification form** with their application. To see more information about the four renewal options or late renewal, you may view our website at: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/recertinfo.shtm>.

Q: I am planning to renew my certification by taking the written exam. What happens if I don't pass the exam?

A: If the applicant fails the examination for recertification, the applicant may attempt two retests. For each subsequent retest attempt, an applicant may apply for and retest at a lower level, if applicable. Also, if an applicant who selects option 1 (written exam), attempts the National Registry assessment, and does not pass, she/he may not attempt recertification by any other option and will not qualify for inactive certification. An applicant who does not pass the third attempt at the National Registry assessment examination must successfully complete a formal recertification course; submit a course completion certificate from that course reflecting that the course was completed after the second retest failure; and must pass the National Registry

assessment examination. An applicant shall not qualify for more than a total of six attempts at the exam, in any combination of levels attempted, in accordance to Texas Administrative Code 157.37(b). For more information about the National Registry assessment examination, please contact the National Registry at: www.nremt.org.

Q: After checking the list of EMS personnel certifications on the website, CEDU is listed as a "modifier" after my name. What does this mean?

A: The modifier is the option you chose as your last renewal option. CEDU means continuing education. You will also see NTLR as a modifier. It means that person chose National Registry as their last renewal option. If no modifier is listed in that column and the column is blank, most likely that person was certified as an initial candidate. If you have questions about the certification query, please call our office at (512) 834-6700.

Q: I need to clear up my deficient application. What is the quickest way to get the corrected information to you?

A: You may fax your corrected application, a copy of your National Registry card, out-of-state verification forms (reciprocity applicants), FBI Federal background checks (reciprocity applicants), or a copy of your transcripts (for licensed paramedics) to (512) 834-6714. If you owe additional fees, you will need to mail a copy of your application and the owed amount to the address on the application.

FAQ

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Q: I just got a “notification” call from someone in my service area who just received an AED. Why are they calling us and how should we react to this information?

A: 25 TAC, Sec. 157.41 requires those who purchase an AED to notify the local EMS. It’s simply an arrangement to help your organization to be aware of AEDs placed in your service area, and could be an opportunity to educate and promote early response to cardiac events.

Q: What is a department-approved Emergency Vehicle Operations Course and where can I get information on courses provided locally? I saw that Texas DSHS EMS Health Media rental library has a video called “EZ-EVOC for EMS - 6494”. If all of the ambulance operators view this media, will this satisfy the department’s minimum criteria for all personnel who drive the ambulance to successfully complete a department approved EVOC?

A: Other than the coursework you received in your initial EMS course, DSHS doesn’t have formal requirements for EMS personnel to receive specific coursework in EVOC training. However, the administrator for the EMS provider who employs you will likely insist on training in this area if you are to be assigned to driving an EMS vehicle. The video you described that’s available from the DSHS Library would serve as an adjunct to continuing education (presented by an instructor), but probably wouldn’t normally be considered to be sufficient on

its own as initial or continuing education training material.

Q: Our newly appointed police chief is also cross-trained as an EMT-I and occasionally responds with our EMS. There have been a few concerns about him responding while he is on duty as an officer because of abandonment and neglect laws. We are capable of providing MICU, but our concern is when we are only running with two EMTs on our ambulance and he responds as well. Are there any laws or rules to protect him if he responds, but does not transport with the ambulance. How should this be handled?

A: If an advanced-level EMS responder initiates advanced care, she/he can only “hand-off” the patient to another individual who is certified/licensed to provide care at that level or higher. If the individual doesn’t hand-off appropriately and the facts warrant abandonment, the responder may receive disciplinary sanctions from the department.

The operational decision regarding police response including emergency medical care is one for your medical director, EMS administrator and possibly the attorney who represents your firm. Each individual is expected to perform patient care appropriate to the level of training received to achieve the certification/license. Although your question implies the police officer is “voluntarily” providing EMS care, the official, on-duty response of trained personnel would undoubtedly need to be authorized by the city police and EMS departments (and medical director), therefore, probably wouldn’t qualify as a voluntary response.